

V. REMARKS

The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to because it contains more than 150 words. A substitute Abstract of the Disclosure, in clean and markup-versions, is filed herewith to obviate the objection.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by JP 2002-316258. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated in the Office Action, claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 is amended in this manner and, as a result, is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least for the reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-17 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as unpatentable over JP 2002-316258. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated in the Office Action, claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 8, 11, 12, 14 and 17 include all of the allowable features of claim 1 as amended. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that Independent claims 8, 11, 12, 14 and 17 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 8 and are allowable at least for the reasons claim 8 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claim 13 depends from claim 12 and includes all of the features of claim 12. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 12 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 14 and includes all of the features of claim 14. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 14 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

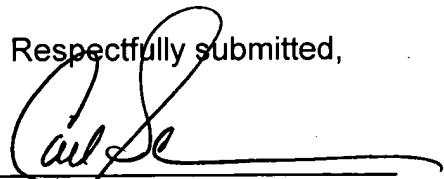
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Date: March 3, 2008

By:

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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Enclosure(s):      Amendment Transmittal

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